



Appropriations Update

Committee on the Budget • Majority Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives
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FISCAL YEAR 2007 LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS BILL – H.R. 5521

SUMMARY

The Legislative appropriations bill reported to the House on 1 June 2006 (H.R.5521; H.Rept. 109-485) provides the funding Congress and its support agencies, such as the Capitol Police, the Congressional Budget Office, the Library of Congress, and the like. In accordance with a long-standing practice – under which each chamber of Congress determines its own housekeeping requirements, and the other concurs without change – appropriations for the Senate are not included in the bill reported to the House.

Overall, the measure provides \$3 billion in new budget authority – \$1 billion less than the amount allocated for it – due to both the absence of funds for the Senate, and reductions from the amounts requested by the various legislative agencies. The bill contains no advance appropriations or emergency designations, and therefore complies with budget resolution provisions governing these mechanisms. This is the sixth of 11 appropriations bills for the fiscal year beginning 1 October 2006.

COST OF THE LEGISLATION

The bill provides a total of \$3.0 billion in new budget authority [BA], and \$3.1 billion in outlays for 2007. It is below the President's budget request – which by law reflects the requests of the legislative agencies – by \$215 million in BA, and \$125 million in outlays (excluding Senate funding) (see Table 1). Thus, the levels reported to the House are less than what the agencies themselves requested.

Relative to the current year, fiscal year 2006, the bill increases funding for the House and legislative branch agencies by \$105 million in BA, an increase of 3.6 percent. Outlays would increase by \$14 million.

There are no rescissions or savings from changes to mandatory programs in the bill.

Table 1: Legislative^a
(fiscal years; millions of dollars)

	2006 Spending ^b	Administration 2007	302 (b) for 2007 ^b	Bill
Budget Authority	2,922	3,242	3,047	3,027
Outlays	3,054	3,193	3,089	3,068

^a Excludes Senate funding.

^b Excludes emergency supplemental appropriations.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE BUDGET RESOLUTION

By virtue of a rule adopted on 18 May 2006, the House-passed budget resolution (H.Con.Res. 376) was ratified as effective for enforcement of the Congressional Budget Act. The Appropriations Committee – under section 302(b) of the Budget Act – has submitted suballocations to its

subcommittees (H.Rept. 109-471) that total the \$873-billion discretionary level in the budget resolution.

As noted above, this measure as reported provides new BA less than the subcommittee allocation, so does not violate

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Budget Act provisions prohibiting the consideration of appropriations measures in excess of their suballocations. Further, the bill does not cause a breach of the budget resolution totals for BA or outlays, which would violate the Congressional Budget Act.

In addition to Budget Act spending rules, the budget resolution provides guidelines for emergency designated appropriations, and appropriations for fiscal years beyond the budget year (so-called “advance appropriations”). As noted, the bill contains neither.

Table 2: Discretionary Spending in the Legislative Appropriations Bill^a
(in millions of dollars)

	2006 Budget Authority	2006 Outlays	2007 Budget Authority	2007 Outlays	Difference BA	Difference Outlays
House of Representatives	1,090	1,134	1,138	1,140	48	6
Senate	777	767	0	120	-777	-647
Capitol Police	247	273	260	264	13	-9
Congressional Budget Office	35	35	36	36	1	1
Architect of the Capitol	417	496	353	445	-64	-51
Library of Congress	554	535	570	548	16	13
Government Printing Office	122	122	130	130	8	8
Government Accountability Office	478	476	488	482	10	6
<u>Other</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	3,765	3,887	3,027	3,214	-738	-673
Total without Senate	2,922	3,054	3,027	3,068	105	14

^a Excludes supplemental appropriations.

DISCUSSION

Table 2 above reflects how the measure’s \$3 billion in total budget authority is allocated among legislative agencies. Noteworthy items are the following:

- *Architect of the Capitol*- The bill provides \$353 million in BA for the Architect, and establishes an Inspector General to audit the Architect’s management and operations. It also places the Comptroller General in direct control over the office of the Architect. The funding level for the Architect is \$64 million (15 percent) less than 2006, and \$225 million (54 percent) less than requested.
- *Capitol Visitor Center* - Within the amounts provided for the Architect of the Capitol are funds associated with the Capitol Visitor Center, still under construction. The bill provides \$46 million in BA, \$5 million above the amount requested. The figure reflects a cost estimate by the Government Accountability Office’s for completion of the Visitor Center.

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